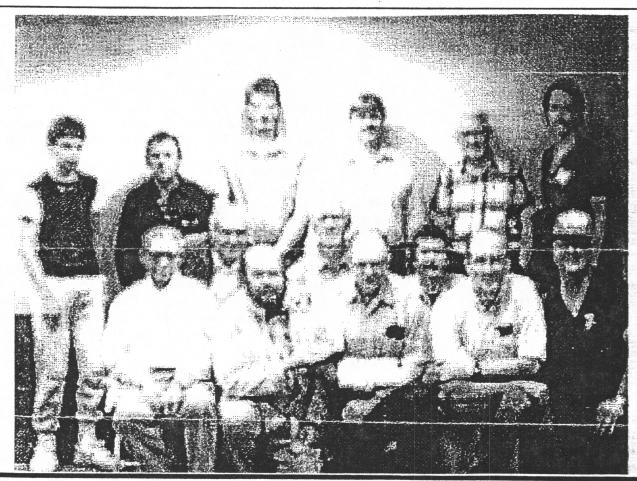
THE RANTOP

SUMMER

Published By The Greater Cleveland Sinclair/Timex/Generic Computer Users Group



East Side Group meets at The Euclid Square Mall In the Euclidian Room 7:30 PM Every first Friday each month Contact: Max Schoenfeld (216)-371-1096

West Side Group meets at Lakewood Public Library
15425 Detroit Ave. Lakewood Ohio 7:00 PM
Every third Friday each month
Contact: Dick Sieg (216)-433-4387



A short note to our friends from other newsletters and magazines. You are welcome to use any of our material, news, adds, or programs if YOU: 1) Tell where it came from (RAMTOP Cleveland, Ohio) and 2) The author's name that wrote the article. We would appreciate it if you would send us a copy of the newsletter that it appeared in We will do the same.

Hello again! here it is the beginning of August and the news letter is late again. I must confess I have been looking around in the PC magazines for good prices for an 80286 based PC. It seems that I must join the ranks of IBM users to keep up in my job. Mostly this deals with interfacing and disk compatibility but also extends to hardware compatibility. In any case, I plan to move into this area by the end of this year.

I hope to continue to edit the RAMTOP but you will see big changes in it due to the influence of Big Blue. This does not mean that I think any less of the Sinclair line of computers. In fact, I may very well appriciate them all the more. At least as far as BASIC programing goes.

If I continue to edit the RAMTOP, you will also start seeing articles on other computers. I feel that we ALL must pull our head out of the sand and realize that there are many GOOD systems out there. They all have their good and bad points. This RAMTOP will carry an article about a visit to a COMMODORE computer meeting.

I feel that the Sinclair is NUMBER when it comes to learning to program in BASIC! I learned BASIC on my ZX-81 and extended this knowledge to my 2068. Many of you have gone the same route. Many of you now also have IBM, Atari, Commodore and others at home too. seems a shame for you to have to go other sources to get any info on these other systems. If any of you have other systems. articles about especially if it conserns comunication with Sinclair equipment, please feel free to send it to me. I will gladly print it.

I guess what it really boils down to is that if we want our Group to grow instead of decline, we must open our doors and minds to those of us who have other equipment. After all, it's not just the computer we use that makes us a group, it is the friendship and sharing of knowledge that has bonded us into a GREAT group!

James 6.DuPuy

We recently returned from a two week visit to England where We spent a week in London and the rest of that time with friends who live in Birmingham. These friends were good enough to take us about and show us the sights including the lake country, the Illuminations of Blackpool, the Maze at Hampton Court Palace and Chaucer's Canterbury. But this article concerns computing so let's get on with it.

While in London I took advantage of every possible minute to look up anything pertaining to the Spectrum. For books I went to Foyles on Charing Cross Road. This is the largest book store that I have ever seen, it is easily the size of the average department store. A good portion of the second floor is devoted to books on computing. However, the books are not filed according to computer but according to publisher, so one must pour over all the shelves to make sure that nothing is missed. Unfortuneately there have not been many new books for the Spectrum of late, mainly because there have been no developements of the Spectrum except for the 128K versions, and I did find a book for the 128K machine. I also found several older books that I did not have, but the pickings were slim.

Second-hand book stores abound in the Charing Cross area, but unlike ours, they do not seem to be interested in technical books, They seem to specialize in various types of fiction or in subjects such as ecology. If a store exists that caters to old computer books, I couldn't find it.

On the other side of Oxford St., opposite Charing Cross Road is Totenham Court Rd, here you find electronics stores one after another. Many of these stores sell computers and Spectrums still abound. That is, I saw a number of Spectrum Plus 2's and Plus 3's but in only on store did I see the Spectrum Plus for sale. Here I found nothing in books and very little in software, only computers. However, in the area is a N.H.Smith store. This is much the same as our Burrows Bros., items such as books, magazines and stationery are sold, but ALSO computer software! Bootes is a chain of stores similar to our Revco drug stores, but in certain of these stores one also finds software!

However, the two best sources for software for the Spectrum were Virgin Games and TOYS-R-US! At Virgin I got a number of compilations or cassettes with between 5 and 20 games on each. These are the best sellers of previous seasons which were being re-issued at bargain prices. At Toys-R-Us there was a large software section and you could find most of the latest games at reasonable prices and also many of the economy games, some of which such as the Magic Knight series, are quite good.

While games and adventures abound and while the best sellers can be found everywhere, serious programs and utilities are not easily available, they must be ordered by mail! I saw only one utility on the shelves and that was Art Studio. It seems that the retail outlets want to sell only the fast moving items. I was told that if I went to a business computer store that I could perhaps find something in this line, but there were none in our area and I did not have time to look one up.

The CPU Connection

A Night At A COMMODORE User Group Meeting By James G. DuPuy

Last month (July) several of OUL members attended a Commodore user chief group meeting. I was the instigator since I am looking at all options in my search for most-for-the-buck computer that software and hardware compatible with the IBM PC. I had heard that the Amiga 2000 is both. I went to this meeting hoping to find someone that knew something on this subject. I was not disapointed.

There demo for the evening was Digitizing with the C-64. This is a subject I am very interested in. I had hoped to see this on the Amiga but I was quite surprized to see that the C-64 did a very good job digitizing on its own! More about this later.

My first impression was that this group is similar to ours in many ways. They have a very few people doing all the work and most of the guys were there for a night out. This may not be fair but it was my impression.

They seem to be about as well (if not better) organized than we are. They have a much larger budget than we do. (I heard they have over \$1500 in their treasury) They do have a lot of problems keeping their members motivated as we do. They seem to have more members at their meetings than we do. I would say at least 50% more. They have a well organized software and newsletter library which is something we seem to lack.

Now on to their demo. As I stated above, I was surprized to see that a C-64 could work as a frame grabber as well as it does. It is done by a small unit that plugs into the expansion port on the back of the C-64. software is on disk and allows quite a few options. The resolution is about the same as the one for the 2068 but it has 4 shades of grey! This is a BIG improvement over the 2068 digitizer. I feel that this could be done on the 2068 if someone would work on it. option was that Another different colors could be used for the 4 shades of grey. In most cases this did not help. B&W seemed to be the best.

BEYOND THE SPECTRUM - a superclone takes shape

The above is the title of an article that appeared in the March issue of CRASH. CRASH is the name of a magazine that appears monthly in England and which is dedicated to the SPECTRUM. CRASH is mainly a magazine of reviews of software, but it does occasionally have articles of interest to Spectrum owners and/or users, the above title is from one of those articles of interest and what follows is drawn from that article.

SAM is the codename of a new computer that will run all Spectrum software. (but not programs for the 128K Spectrum, at least mot yet). SAM will run at twice the speed of the Spectrum and can handle 64K to 256K of internal memory and could handle another 512K of memory outside of the computer!

SAM is expected to sell for #99.95, which at the current rate of exchange is in the neighborhood of \$170. There is also a disk operating system proposed. This uses quad desity 3.5 inch disk drives. They use normal disks but pack 1560K onto each disk. This will read and write to disk 5 times faster than Astrad's +3. This optional add on will sell for the same price as the computer.

A prototype of SAM actually exists! In fact, the author of the CRASH article wrote it after seeing and testing the prototype!

SAM will have several new display modes. You will be able to display 85 columns of text if you use a monitor. On a TV the maximum will be 64. This display gives you 512 pixels across and is intended for word processing and the like and in this mode you are restricted to two colors on the whole screen.

In another mode you have the capability of 16 color graphics. The Spectrum permits only two colors in a character square of 64 pixels, one paper color and one ink color. SAM allows two colors per line of 8 pixels, hence SAM has eight times the color resolution of the Spectrum.

SAM will load tapes at normal or high-speed. It writes or saves 50% faster than the Spectrum, but it senses when you load tape that was saved at normal speed, and it adjusts automatically.

SAM has two network ports which allow several computers to use the same printer and/or disk. The cassette port uses only one socket and doubles as input/output. There is a MIDI port so you can read AND write musical data. There is a nine pin port for a joystick OR a mouse. There is also a connector for a light pen and there are separate outputs for RGB monitors and composite monitors.

SAM now has the same sound chip as the 128K Spectrum, but the designers hope to use the Yamaha SAA1089. This is a stereo sound chip of eight octaves and will play up to six notes and two 'noises' through separate stereo channels.



Laps lock indicator for Quill

By: Robert Parish

One of the things that I found lacking with Quill for the QL was that there is no caps lock indicator. One of my Timelines.... Bulliten Board System users was thoughtfull enough to share this program QLCAPS.BAS and upload it to the BBS running on my Tandy 1000. At the time that it was uploaded, I did not have a way to get it to my QL from the BBS other than to call it up into a word processor and print out the line listings and then key that into my QL. It worked very well at the first try! It solved the caps lock indicator promblem. I now have the means to download anything from my bbs to my QL and save it to disk. Then I can load and run it. Some very good programs have been uploaded by the users of Timelines.....BBS.

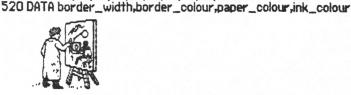
Key in the program and save it as QLCAPS.BAS and then run it. It will show you the defalt numbers to key in at the prompts to place the CAPS ON/CAPS OFF sign at bottom center of Quill word processor. It will make a machine code program to generate the caps lock on/off indicator machine code program named caps bin after you have answered the prompts and its finished. Put the M/C program this makes on your Quill program media. The name of the M/C program will be (caps_bin). Put this in your QUILL BOOT FILE (EXEC caps_bin) before it says (EXEC_W mdv1_QLWP). This should be in line number 170. Since I have the CUMANA Disk Drive Interface and twin 360K Disk Drives, my line number 170 in my Quill BOOT file on my Quill program disk looks like this, (170 FLP_USE MDV:EXEC caps_bin:EXEC_W mdv1_QLWP). If you are using microdrives, yours should be (170 EXEC caps_bin:EXEC_W mdv1_QLWP). Make sure you do not include the brackets in the examples!

I have found this to be a great little utility program and have used it to put the caps look indicator on my terminal programs that I use with my modem to log on to BBS'S with. Using it, I always know whether or not my CAPS LOCK key is engaged. The mythod of operation is quite simple. A window at the bottom center of Quill will appear on the screen when Quill loads. The status of the CAPS LOCK key will be displayed. If the CAPS LOCK is on, it will say CAPS ON and you will be in upper case. Press the CAPS LOCK key and it will change to CAPS OFF and you will be in lower case. Another thing that is neat about it is that you can change where the CAPS ON/CAPS OFF sign goes by running the program QLCAPS.BAS again and by giving the program different numbers than the displayed defalts will make it go on the screen anywhere you need it. You can customize it to fit the screen layout for any program you wish to use it with by doing this. By reading the line listings, the QL manual and paying carefull attention to what is going on, it will not be hard to discover what to

change and to what value to be able to put it anywhere you want. If you do not want to key in the program to be able use it, Then log on to Timelines.....BBS Data Line number 216-671-6922 from 10 PM to 6 AM Eastern Standard Time and download it using Xmodem. You must log on at 8/N/1 parameters to use Xmodem. The board supports 300 and 1200 baud rates. I plan on also supporting 2400 baud as soon as I can aford the faster modem. For now, it is an open system and gives everyone one hour per 24 hours access time. As time goes by and more people begin to use the board it may be restricked to members only. When that happens, you will need be a paid registered user to gain access.

If you bring a micro cartridge to our clubs meeting, I'll take it home and copy the file to for you and bring it to the next meeting. If you are out of town and wish to get the program, mail 2 micro cartridges, one for the file and one for my effort to: Robert Parish, 12706 Leeila Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44135, I'll copy it over to one of them and mail it back the day after I get it. I will also include some other Public Domain files such as I have on the BBS. Do not send disks. My drives are non-standard and any files copied may not load on your system. If you put your working copy of Quill on one of the micro carts, I will place the caps_bin file and correct your BOOT file to invoke it. If there is room, I will also place the QLCAPS.BAS on it.

100 WINDOW 512,206,0,0:PAPER 0:INK 7 110 MODE 4 120 PRINT TO 30; CAPS LOCK INDICATOR'
130 PRINT \\'Type the number in the brackets if you wish to use the routine with QUILL."\\ 140 INPUT 'Border width 150 INPUT 'Border colour 160 INPUT 'Paper colour :"border_width :"border_colour (0) :"paper_colour (0)170 INPUT Ink colour "ink_colour 180 INPUT 'Window width (50) 190 INPUT 'Window height (10) :"window_width :"!window_height 200 INPUT 'X coord 210 INPUT 'Y coord (200):"xcoord (245) :"!ycoord 220 RESTORE 230 address=ALCHP(110) 240: 250 REMark Use RESPR(110) in line 230 if you do not have this extra command "ALCHP" found in Tool Kit II 270 FOR num_bytes=0 TO 93 280 READ byte 290 POKE address+num_bytes,byte 300 END FOR num_bytes 310 POKE_W address+94, window_width 320 POKE_W address+96,window_height 330 POKE_W address+98,xcoord 340 POKE_W address+100,ycoord 350: 360 REMark use MDV in the next line if you do not have disc drives 370 : 380 SEXEC flp1_caps_bin,address,110,0 400 REMark If you used the RESPR command in line 230 then do not type in line 420 410: 420 RECHP address 430 DATA 96,12,0,0,0,0,74,251,0,4 440 DATA 67,65,80,83,112,11,114,255,116,1 450 DATA 78,65,52,120,0,200,67,250,0,62 460 DATA 78,146,40,124,0,2,128,136,118,255 480 DATA 78,146,40,124,0,2,128,136,118,470 DATA 116,8,12,20,0,0,103,10,67,250 480 DATA 0,24,112,7,78,67,96,8,67,250 490 DATA 0,22,112,7,78,67,112,17,114,0 500 DATA 78,57,96,224,67,65,80,83,32,79,70,70



READ.MAC FOR THE QL

READ.MAC is a picture file reader/displayer for the I.B.M. PC. For several years the I.B.M and clone users have been able to read and display MACINTOSH Computer Screen Pictures using this utility. These READ.MAC picture/s files are found on just about any I.B.M. BBS. in READMAC.ARC files. You need an un-archiver utility to open it.

Don Walterman a great contribitor to Timelines....BBS informs me that he has been working on a READ_MAC for the QL and has been able to do it! He has sent me a rough copy via upload to try out. R.P.

A ZX-81 Fast Loading Program by Ian Deaville COURTESY Vancouver Sinclair Users Group "ZX-APPEAL", 1/89

This program increases the T/S LOAD/SAVE baud rate to 1580 bps. Be sure to keep your tape player clean and demagnetized, as there is little room for error at these speeds. Make sure the REM line has at least 244 characters, and check the A\$ entries carefully— one mistake and it's curtains. Best SAVE a copy before running the first time. Enter and LOAD program 1, delete lines 10-90 and add program 2 to the REM line. Ready the cassette player and RUN program Z, saving it to tape. Before saving or loading any program load this in first. A program must be saved at this speed before you can reload it at the higher baud rate. RAND USR 32512 to SAVE a program; RAND USR 32525 to reLOAD.

PROGRAM 1

1 REM244 CHARS.....USE REM GENERATOR, VISTA N/L 2-6...etc, etc....

10 LET A\$=
"CD230F11067FCD2B7FCD2B6F211D7F221640CD707FCD2B8FC90B0B0B0B00000000
000CDA80338F9EB11CB12CD460F302E10FE1B7AB320F4CD4E7FCB7E2328F821094
0CD4E7FCDFC0118F85E37CB13C89FE602C6014FD3FF062310FECD460F3072061E1
0FE0D20EEC3D87F18E0CDA803CB12CB0ACD7C7F18FB0E0106003E7FDBFED3FF1F3
0491717382810F1F1BAD2E503626BCD7C7FCB7A792003CB7B7B38F510F5D12004F
E5630B23FCB1130ADC97AA726BBCFGCA7065010FEC36E7F21824011007F01E000E
DB021FF7E220440C3C303"

15 LET X=16514

20 FAST

30 IF A\$="" THEN GOTO 80

40 POKE X, 16*CODE A\$+ CODE A\$(2) - 476

50 LET A\$ = A\$ (3 TO)

60 LET X = X + 1

78 GOTO 38

SG SLOW

90 STOP

PROGRAM 2

18 SAVE "ZXTURBO"

20 PRINT "TO SAVE USE RAND USR 32512"

30 PRINT "TO LOAD USE RAND USR 32525"

48 PAUSE 158

50 RAND USR 16738

Thanks are the to my wife who helped me which the will

Reprinted from the March '87 issue of TIMELINEZ.

QL BANNER by Tim Swenson

This is a little neatsy-keen program that I originaly wrote years ago, on the ZX81.

The user types up to 10 strings of up to 80 characters each. The strings are then slowly "marched" across the screen, very much like the signs on Bart. The letters start on the right and scroll off to the left.

The screen that is used to show the banner can be fancied up a bit. Playing around with the stipple of the strips can be fun.

So, here it is. Have fun with it. It might come in handy someday.

```
100 WINDOW 512,256,0,0 : PAPER 0
: INK 4
110 DIM as(10,80)
120 clear_data
130 set_screen2
140 get_all
150 set_screeni
160 REPeat loop
170 FOR x = 1 TO 10
180 IF LEN(a$(x)) < 2 THEN NEXT
190 LET length = LEN(a$(x))
200 LET start_s=1 : LET
last_s=1
     FOR y=1 TO LEN(a$(x))+32
210
      PAUSE 10
220
       LET key=KEYROW(0)
230
       f_key
240
       IF key<>0 THEN GO TO 160
250
       LET start at = 32-y
260
       IF y>32 THEN start_at=0
270
       LET x$=a$(x)&" "
280 ·
       AT 4, start_at : PRINT
x$(start s TO last_s)
```

```
300
      LET last_s = last_s +1
      IF y>31 THEN LET start s
310
= start_s +1
320 NEXT y
    AT 4,0: PRINT "
330
340 NEXT x
350 END REPeat loop
360 DEFine PROCedure f_key
370 SELect ON key
      ON key = 2
380
        set_screen2
390
        get_string
400
        set_screen1
410
420
      ON key = 8
        clear data
430
       set_screen2
440
       get_all
450
460
    ON \text{ key} = 16
       set_screen2
470
480
     EXIT loop
490
        set screen1
        STOP
500
510 END SELect
520 END DEFine f_key
530 DEFine PROCedure set_screen1
540 MODE 8 : WINDOW 512,256,0,0
    PAPER 0 : INK 4 : CLS
550
560
    CSIZE 3,1
570 STRIP 1 : AT 2,0: PRINT "
580 STRIP 1 : AT 6,0: PRINT "
    STRIP 4 : AT 1,0: PRINT "
590
    STRIP 4 : AT 7,0: PRINT "
600
610 STRIP 3 : AT 0,0: PRINT "
620 STRIP 3 : AT 8,0: PRINT "
630
     STRIP 0
640 END DEFine set_screen1
650 DEFine PROCedure set_screen2
660 MODE 4 : CSIZE 0,0
670 CLS
680 END DEFine set screen2
690 DFFine PROCedure clear_data
700 FOR x = 1 TO 10
     a$(x) = ""
710
720 NEXT x
730 END DEFine clear data
740 DEFine PROCedure get_string
     PRINT "Enter String Number
750
to Re-enter "
      INPUT x
760
    PRINT : PRINT "Enter New
770
String Message "
```

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE QUAKER SQUARE COMPUTER SHOW WILL BE ON SAT. AUG 26 & SUN. AUG 27! PLEASE ATTEND!!! DON'T FORGET TO STOP AT OUR TABLE! (YOU ARE WELCOME TO HELP!)

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Note on prices -- asking price [Sharp's price]

Computer --POWER supply, manual, upgraded 5V supply, RGB buffer, volume control, lubricated keyboard, monochrome composite cable (RCA), RGB cable (DB9), cable For network, TV/computer switch, 8 MDVs, serial cable (D89 to D825), i MOV wallet, Transform case (for 20 MDVs), ventilation holes above heatsink spelled out as "Sinclair Quantum Leap", 1 broken, microdrive unit for you to play with. \$135 [\$185+3

Trump Card 768K -- \$350 [\$452] Mitsubishi 5.25* 720K drive -- \$65 Drive case (for-two half height) drives) With power supply \$55 Case (above), drive (above), cable (for two drives) ---[\$176] Vanilla Solution IBM MS-BOS Emulator --\$125 [\$151] Quantum Levels -- 10 issues from 8/86 70 10/88 \$1.50/issue or \$12/all

.... or everything above for \$700 [\$965+]

All prices include shipping. Offers are accepted. If interested, please contact me at: 71561,1848. Thanks, Chia-Chi

Address: Chia-Chi Chao, 73 Sullivan Drive, Moraga, CA 94554-1289

Continued from "COMPUTING IN ENGLAND"

As far as magazines are concerned I could find only three that were dedicated to the Spectrum and these were The Sinclair User, Your Sinclair and Crash. CRASH is a magazine of reviews only and does not pretend to be anything else the other two are mainly reviews but Your Sinclair has for some months included a column called PITSTOP and this contains programs of various types in machine code. There have been some excellant programs in this column. Also in the past few issues an insert has been included which contains, in alphabetical order, hints, tips and pokes for most of the popular games. The October issue, which is the one that I brought home with me contains part 4 of this series, and consists of eight pages covering the letters 'S' and 'T'. This is an excellant series if you are at all interested in games.

Another thing of interest. The above magazines have been including a game cassette with the magazine and some of these have been worth more than the price of the magazine. For instance the October issue of Your Sinclair included a game called DUSTIN. The graphics are of a similar type to those in the Great Escape. The problem is to get Dusten out of prison. On the other side of this tape is a playable demo.

The September issue of Sinclair User included an excellent tape. The featured game was AMAUROTE and the claim is that it contains over 2500 screens. It was released about a year ago and for some reason did not strike it big, as it should have. This is quite unbelievable! This same tape includes about 10 pokes for various games and also a playable demo of Olympic Challenge.

Neal Elias Nov. 88

Continued from "BEYOND THE SPECTRUM"

To quote CRASH, "Cambridge-based Miles Gordon Technology (MGT), which developed SAM, plans to give the ZX market the biggest boost it's had since the Spectrum launch six years ago."I for one, wish them success!

To recap here are the SAM specifications:

PROCESSOR: Zilog Z80B, running at 6MHz

KEYBOARD: 48 keys BASIC: 32K ROM

PORTS

RAM : 8 x 16K pages, freely mappable DISPLAY : 256 x 192 pixels mono, 32 x 24

character squares, 15 color

attributes

256 x 192 mono, 32 x 192 16 color

attributes

80 x 25 characters, 2 colors only : R6B/composite video, cassette,

network, MIDI in/out, joystick/
mouse, ROM/Spectrum bus/parallel

port

this form and send it to t for: \$15/Year or \$7.50/ 6 (Attend meetings, use libr payable to the RAMTOP! (Th	ribe to the RAMTOP please fill out ne listed address along with a check no. to become a member of our Group ary tapes Ect.) Please make checks phone # is only for our records!) TIMELINES BBS! (216-671-6922, 8-N-1) to 6AM (EST) 7 days a week.
**************************************	**************************************
*	*
NAME:	PHONE:
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*STREET:	for our records! *
*	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
*CITY:	STATE: *
Tune of computer(s) and n	eripheral(s) you own:
*	*
*	*
* THANK YOU for your	interest! Please send to: *
*Robert Parish, 12706 Leeila Ave., Cleveland, OH 44135 *	

f you have a printer that uses thermal paper and can't find reasonably priced paper, a source for you. Office Max sells fax paper that will work in the 2010 printer or	

If you have a printer that uses thermal paper and can't find reasonably priced paper, I have a source for you. Office Max sells fax paper that will work in the 2040 printer or a thermal printer. There are 2 problems though. The rolls are 8½"x99! so they have to be cut in half for the 2040 and 2 you have to buy 6 folls at a time which gives you 12 2040 rolls. I have successfully cut a roll in half with a jeweler's saw but it took a long time so I recomend a larger but very fine saw. If you want to buy them from Office Max they're \$25.37 for 6 rolls, stock number 876425 or I will sell them to you whole or half roll for \$2.25 a half roll, tax included. (Radio Shack price is \$5.50 plus tax for 2 rolls.) See me at a meeting or call 884-3835 or Freenet email agll2. It probably wouldn't be worth while to ship them but I will if you would like.

Doug Gillespie

Thom:

THE GREATER CLEVELAND SINCLAIR USER GROUJAMES G. DUPUY (EDITOR OF THE RAMTOP) (6514 Bradley Ave. (DOWN)
Parma, Ohio 44129

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